

SNOW THROWER/BLOWER SAFETY

Every year hospital emergency rooms treat an average of 6,000 injuries related to snow blowers and snow throwers. The largest number of injuries happen to adults ages 25 to 64 years old. The injuries range from lacerations and bone fractures to finger amputations. These accidents are preventable with a little common sense and some basic understanding of the equipment. Many people this year will be operating snow removal equipment for the first time. It is of utmost importance that first time users get some basic instructions from their supervisor, team leader or co-worker who has a working knowledge of the equipment. For the non-work environment it is helpful to get some pointers from the selling dealer. If none of the previous suggestions are for you there is always the manufacturer's instruction book. Whatever method or person you get your guidance from, it is most important that you get it and not become one of the statistics mentioned earlier. If you don't have, or can not find, the instruction book, and have no one to ask, we have some pointers that will assist you in getting through the snow clearing event safely and intact.

NEVER put hands or feet near or under rotating parts and stay clear of discharge opening at all times.

NEVER operate equipment without proper guards, plates, or other safety protective devices in place.

NEVER allow children to operate the equipment or be in the equipment work area.

NEVER try to unclog the discharge chute by hand, turn equipment off, remove spark plug wire and proceed to use something like a broom handle to unclog the chute.

NEVER leave equipment unattended when running.

NEVER direct discharge chute towards people or other objects, stones, ice chunks and other debris become projectiles.

ALWAYS wear eye protection while operating equipment.

ALWAYS wear shoes or boots with good traction and close fitting clothing when operating equipment.

ALWAYS wear warm clothing so you do not need to rush the job.

ALWAYS make small slow passes when the snow is heavy.

ALWAYS add fuel when engine is off and cool.

ALWAYS make sure work area is free of obstacles before starting the clearing process.